

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 297605

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/030 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL,,JR.:GCB

APPROVED BY NEA/ A. R. DAY

NEA/ARP:CCECIL (DRAFT)

NEA/ARN MR. DRAPER

----- 038882

R 072153Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LE, SA

SUBJECT: RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING IN LEBANON

REF: A) JIDDA 7670; B) JIDDA 7838

1. DEPT HAS NO OBJECTION TO PASSING CONTENTS OF BEIRUT'S USEFUL ASSESSMENT (BEIRUT 8691) OF LEBANESE RECONSTRUCTION SITUATION TO SAUDIS.
2. WE HAVE LITTLE CONCRETE INFORMATION TO ADD AT THIS TIME BESIDES NON-AUTHORITATIVE REPORT FROM WELL-CONNECTED LEBANESE SOURCE THAT SARKIS ADVISORS ENGAGED IN PRELIMINARY RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING ARE PROJECTING TOTAL NEED FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE OF \$3 BILLION. OF THIS AMOUNT, \$2 BILLION WOULD BE SOUGHT IN THE FORM OF LONG-TERM, LOW-INTEREST LOANS AND THE REMAINING BILLION ON GRANT TERMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.
3. YOU MAY ALSO TELL THE SAUDIS THAT WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE NOTES ON THIS SUBJECT AS A BETTER

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PAGE 02 STATE 297605

APPRECIATION OF LEBANON'S NEEDS AND PLANS BECOMES AVAILABLE.

IN GENERAL, WE CONSIDER THAT THE STABILIZATION PROCESS
UNDER WAY IN LEBANON WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY REASONABLE RE-
CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FROM FRIENDLY FOREIGN STATES AT
THE APPROPRIATE TIME. SUCH AID WOULD PROVIDE FURTHER
TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT
SARKIS AS HE UNDERTAKES THE IMPORTANT TASK OF REINVIGORATING
THE LEBANESE ECONOMY. ROBINSON

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